

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
NOBORI, Tsutomu et al.

Application No.: To Be Assigned

Filed: February 9, 2001

For: METHOD FOR DETECTION OF THE
PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF
METHYLTHIOADENOSINE
PHOSPHORYLASE (MTASE) IN A CELL
SAMPLE BY DETECTION OF THE PRESENCE
OR ABSENCE OF MTASE ENCODING
NUCLEIC ACID IN THE CELL SAMPLE

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Art Unit: To Be Assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following
amendments and remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following on page 1, line 9, at the beginning of the sentence "This is
a continuation-in-part of...":

At page 1, line 9, after "This is a", please insert --divisional application of and
claims the benefit of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/072,914, filed May 4, 1998, which is a--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-9.

REMARKS


With entry of this Amendment, claims 1-9 are canceled without prejudice to further
prosecution. Thus, claims 10-16 are pending in the present application with entry of this Amendment.
For the Examiner's convenience, the pending claims are provided in an Appendix, attached hereto.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this
Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early
date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


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